

OIE Code Chapter on Rabies

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission Report – October 2006

Suggested language:

Article 2.2.5.5.

When importing from countries considered infected with rabies, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for dogs and cats

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of rabies within 48 hours of shipment;

AND EITHER

2. were vaccinated against rabies:

- a) not less than 6 months and not more than one year prior to shipment in the case of a primary vaccination, which should have been carried out when the animals were at least 3 months old, **or in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions as approved by the Veterinary Authority;**
- b) not more than one year prior to shipment in the case of a booster vaccination;
- c) with an inactivated virus vaccine or with a recombinant vaccine expressing the rabies virus ~~protein~~ protective antigen(s);

Rationale:

2.a) Although not for comment, the current sentence in Article 2.2.5.5, Point 2.a) species that the animals must be at least 3 months old to be eligible for vaccination; however, there is at least one approved vaccine for cats which has approval to be given after 8 weeks of age.

2.c) There are potentially numerous combinations of sub-unit proteins, peptides and/or fusion-chimeric recombinant proteins or synthetic peptides or proteins that could be protective and be used as a vaccine. Proof of concept has been established for multiple

USA Comments – TAHSC October 2006 Report

approaches. The word protein is restrictive and could unintentionally eliminate some vaccines that may be developed in the near future.